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The British Computer Society

History and Objects

The Society was formed in 1957 by the amalgamation of the London Computer Group, who were concerned mainly with accounting and management problems, and a group representing scientific and engineering interests.

The objects of the Society are:—

(*a*) to promote knowledge of the development and use of computational machinery and related techniques, including digital and analogue machines and business and scientific applications;
(*b*) to facilitate the free exchange of information of common interest to members.

The growth of the Society since 1957 has been rapid and membership now exceeds 3,700: this figure includes many firms and government departments as institutional members.

The Society aims to achieve its objects through the following five heads of activity.

(1) *The production of quarterly publications* containing scientific and business papers and a monthly newsletter giving details of meetings and other items of interest to members.

The quarterly publications are *The Computer Journal*, which is devoted to original papers and articles of permanent interest, and *The Computer Bulletin* of more topical articles, announcements about new equipment, reports of meetings, and book reviews.

Circulation of the *Journal* is about 6,000 of which some 1,500 go to overseas subscribers in more than thirty countries.

Post-free subscription rates to these publications are:—

The Computer Journal	£3 10s. 0d. per year
The Computer Bulletin	£1 0s. 0d. per year

(2) *The organization of conferences and meetings*

Regular meetings and conferences are held in different parts of the country during the period October to May.

(3) *The formation of study groups*

The Society has formed 13 study groups, who arrange their own programmes of meetings and present reports on their work from time to time. Their subjects are:—

Advanced Programming
Algol
Artificial intelligence and simulation of behaviour
Business applications of error codes
Data Transmission
Document handling and character recognition
Hybrid computation
Input/Output
Law in relation to computers
Mathematical programming
Medical data processing
Numerical Control
Production Control

The possibility of forming two further study groups in the following subjects is being examined:—

Business Information systems
Computational linguistics

(4) *The formation of branches throughout the country*

There are now 17 branches based on the following cities and towns outside the London and home counties area:—

Belfast
Birmingham
Bristol
Cardiff
Coventry
Dundee
Edinburgh
Glasgow
Hull
Leeds
Leicester
Liverpool
Manchester
Middlesbrough
Newcastle
Sheffield
Southampton

(5) *Collaboration with other societies and institutions*

The Society is a member of the United Kingdom Automation Council and represents British interests on the council of the International Federation of Information Processing Societies: it also collaborates with the Institution of Electrical Engineers and Institute of Electronic and Radio Engineers and other similar bodies in the promotion of conferences, symposia and other forms of joint activity. In addition the Society is represented on some 20 technical committees of the British Standards Institution, and from time to time sends representatives to meetings of the International Standards Organization.

Membership

The Society is not a qualifying or examining body and membership is open to anybody who has an interest in electronic computing and data processing; the Society serves designers and users alike in all applications of digital and analogue computers and allied techniques.

The annual subscription is three guineas and there is an entrance fee of one guinea. Those under 25 may join for a reduced subscription of one guinea, without entrance fee. Between the ages of 21 and 25 they become Associate Members, and below 21, Students. The annual membership fees include one copy of each issue of each publication, mailed direct to members' registered addresses on day of publication.

There is also provision for Institutional membership by companies and other corporate bodies for a subscription of ten guineas a year, entitling them to receive two copies of all publications and to nominate two representatives to attend meetings. Branches of companies and divisions or separate establishments of other corporate bodies may each become institutional members, thus permitting maximum participation by staffs in the Society's activities.

The Society's membership year runs from 1st May to 30th April. The Secretary will be pleased to supply further information on request.

Secretary: J. G. Mackarness, M.A.
Offices: Finsbury Court, Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C.2
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